

The  
**INFORMATION  
WINDOW**

of the  
Wantagh Preservation Society  
PO Box 132, Wantagh, New York 11793

Dated material

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February 2009

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2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Chris Wendt
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Corresp. Secretary	Dick MacMillan
Treasurer	Elaine Yarris

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Rita Coffey	Rose Kamins	Claire Reisert	Alfred Thomson	Elaine Yarris
Ellen Cook	Dick MacMillan			

**FEBRUARY 24 MEETING**

The February 24 general meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library. The meeting will feature an audio-visual talk by long-time WPS member Milton Seltzer, who will discuss parallels between the careers of Abraham Lincoln and our recently-elected president, Barack Obama.

The meeting will begin with the introduction of Mr. Seltzer, who, in addition to the night's talk, has prepared an exhibit in the library from his collection of Lincoln memorabilia, as he has done each February for the last three decades.

After the talk, and any questions for Mr. Seltzer, there will be a period of refreshments, with coffee, tea and seasonal desserts. If you would like to help with the refreshments, please call Mrs. Theresa Donahue, at (516) 785-0739.


Following refreshments, there will be a short business meeting for Society members. A major item for discussion is the appointment of a recording secretary for the Society. 

**SPECIAL NEWS ITEM**

Hold the date of **May 16** – our Spring Yard Sale is planned for 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. 

**THANKS TO PAUMANACKE**


We thank President Loretta Lentini and the members of the Paumanacke Garden Club for their beautiful decoration of our Museum for the Holiday season. The wreaths on the doors of the Railroad Museum, the old Wantagh Post Office and the Railroad Car, Jamaica, gave an air of Christmas to the whole Museum grounds, and the bows and greens along the front fence added beauty to the view from Wantagh Avenue.

We also repeat the thanks to our anonymous donor who placed the Christmas lights on our large spruce tree by the Museum Grounds entrance. 

**Preservation Society Calendar**

Tuesday, February 24, 2009. General Membership Meeting in the Community Room of the Wantagh Public Library, 8:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 8, 2009. Begin Daylight Saving Time, 2:00 A.M.

Tuesday, March 24, 2009. Trustees Meeting in the Museum waiting room, 8:00 P.M. 

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Addr: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ New  Renew


E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:      Indiv \$10    Family \$20  
                  Friend \$30    Patron \$50    Fellow \$100


Mail to Wantagh Preservation Society  
P O Box 132, WANTAGH, NY 11793

NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINS

Our membership year starts on January 1, and ends on December 31. Members are requested to mail in their membership dues as soon after the year begins as possible. As an aid to those with weak memory, the address label of each Information Window contains a first line with a note like, "Dues paid to Jan '09." Since it is possible to pay more than one year in advance, check this line to see where you stand.

The amount of dues that you pay is up to you and your opinion of the needs of the Society. Most folks start with the "Individual" or "Family" membership, and progress to the higher levels over time. 

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Alice's Blaustein's membership tabulations show that so far, 34 members have renewed their membership for the year 2009, although our labels have yet to be updated with the new figures. 

The INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings.

It is also available on-line at [www.wantagh.li](http://www.wantagh.li) along with the Society's event program and all sorts of good things connected with Wantagh.

You are invited to submit articles on items of local historical interest. The editor is Dick MacMillan, (516) 785-3951. 

*Here's a little history of Wantagh's neighbor to the north – Levittown – taken from the Levittown Historical Society's brochure.*

"The Levittown area was first settled in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by English Puritans and Quakers. Following the arrival of the railroad at Hicksville in the 1840's, the neighborhood experienced an influx of German immigrant tradesmen and potato farmers.

"[During] the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the future Levittown [area] became the site for the 1908-1911 Vanderbilt Cup Race where industrialists Henry Ford, J. P. Morgan and William Vanderbilt showcased the state-of-the-art in horseless carriages [on the then-new *Vanderbilt Parkway*]. Between the world wars, [there were] several rural airfields [that] operated in the area. The largest [of these] was the *Long Island Aviation Country Club* – one member there during the early 20s was Charles Lindburgh. Among the local rural communities in the area were Jerusalem and Island Trees.

"Between 1947 and 1951, Levitt & Sons, built Levittown, New York, the largest housing development in history, complete with 17,447 mass-produced houses, roads, landscaping, parks and community facilities. Over the next 30 years, Levitt & Sons went on to establish communities in four US States and seven foreign countries. More than a million people throughout the globe live in Levitt-built homes; tens of millions more towns have utilized the mass production, marketing and civil engineering techniques revolutionized in Levittown on Long Island.

"Levittown's place in history is secure in mid-20th century as the quintessential example of, and the blueprint for the modern suburban lifestyle."

The Levittown Historical Society

Established in 1988 and chartered in 1992, the Levittown Historical Society is a nonprofit educational institution dedicated to preserving the legacy of William J. Levitt, the world-famous suburban town he and his family built for homecoming veterans after the War, and the rural communities of Jerusalem and Island Trees that preceded it. 